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ABSTRACT

This report describes postgraduate enrollment trends for ethnic groups underrepresented at University of California, Davis. The UC Davis Student Affirmative Action (SAA) Plan identifies the following groups as underrepresented in both the Graduate Division and professional schools: American Indian, Black/African-American, Chicano/Mexican American, Filipino/Pilipino, and Latino/Spanish-American. The report refers to this group collectively as SAA students. The Plan also designates Asian students to be underrepresented in certain graduate fields as well as in Management and Veterinary Medicine. The number of students from underrepresented ethnic groups applying to and enrolling in the UC Davis Graduate Division increased dramatically between 1981 and 1988, resulting in a doubling of the proportion of SAA students. Applications to UC Davis professional schools of Management, Law, Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine declined overall from 1981 to 1988; the number of SAA applicants declined by a smaller amount, while total enrollment of SAA students increased. The proportion of SAA students enrolled in the UC Davis professional schools (12%) now equals the proportion in which they receive baccalaureate degrees in the state of California. SAA students are less well represented in the Graduate Division (7%), but disparity between baccalaureate degrees received and graduate enrollment has narrowed considerably. The disparity between proportions of Asian students receiving baccalaureate degrees (11%) and enrolling in UC Davis professional schools (10%) has been reduced but continues. (JDD)

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University of California
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RESEARCH
SYNOPSIS

Student Affairs
Research and Information

No. 29 April 1989

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A STATUS REPORT ON ETHNIC GROUPS UNDERREPRESENTED AT UC DAVIS

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In 1983 Student Affairs Research and Information, at the request of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, initiated a process for monitoring campus progress toward increasing postgraduate enrollment of students from ethnic groups underrepresented at UC Davis. Each year we collect data on applications, admissions and enrollments for the previous fall from the Graduate Division and each professional school (Graduate School of Management, School of Law, School of Medicine and School of Veterinary Medicine). This report compares information for Fall 1981 and Fall 1988.*

The UC Davis Student Affirmative Action (SAA) Plan (November 1982) identifies the following groups as underrepresented in both the Graduate Division and professional schools: American Indian, Black/African-American, Chicano/Mexican-American, Filipino/Pilipino, and Latino/Spanish-American. This report refers to these groups collectively as "SAA" students throughout. The Plan additionally designates Asian students to be underrepresented in certain graduate fields, as well as in Management and Veterinary Medicine. In this report the term "Asian" refers to the following groups: Chinese/Chinese-American, Japanese/Japanese-American, Korean, Polynesian, and Thai/Other Asian.

The 1982 SAA Plan targeted groups because the proportions of their enrollment in postgraduate study were lower than the proportions in which they received baccalaureate degrees in California. Although receipt of a baccalaureate degree is an imperfect measure of eligibility for postgraduate study, progress in enrolling underrepresented students in graduate work builds upon the work of undergraduate affirmative action programs and can only be successful to the extent that the number of baccalaureate holders increases.

The first part of this report describes postgraduate trends at UC Davis, using admissions data provided by the Graduate Division and professional schools, and enrollment data from the Student Records System Enrollment Report (RR102) and a Planning and Budget Office report (RG255E). The second part examines changes in the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded to students from the targeted ethnic groups by California public colleges and universities, using data provided by the California Postsecondary Education Commission. This section examines whether there has been a reduction in the disparity between the percentage of undergraduate degrees awarded in California to minority students and the percentage of these students enrolled in postgraduate study at UC Davis.

** Complete data for the Graduate Division and each professional school may be obtained by contacting Student Affairs Research & Information at (916) 752-2000.*

I. Application, Admission and Enrollment Trends

Graduate Division

The number of students from underrepresented ethnic groups applying to the Graduate Division increased dramatically between 1981 and 1988. As Table 1 indicates, the number of SAA and Asian applicants increased by 116% and 84% respectively, compared with an increase overall of 21%.

This substantial increase in SAA and Asian applications has yielded a larger number of students admitted for postgraduate study; their numbers increased 95% and 44% respectively, while admissions to the Graduate Division overall declined by 5%.

Comparison of data for new students enrolling from Fall 1986 to Fall 1988 indicates that large increases in the numbers of SAA and Asian applications and admissions yielded increasing enrollments for both groups. SAA enrollment increased by 68% while Asian enrollment showed more moderate improvement (6%).

In terms of total enrollment in the Graduate Division, the numbers of SAA and Asian students also increased substantially (by 108% and 28% respectively). As a result of these increases, the proportion of SAA students has more than doubled, increasing from 3% of total enrollment in Fall 1981 to 7% in Fall 1988. The proportion of Asian students enrolled in the Graduate Division increased by half, going from 4% in Fall 1981 to 6% in Fall 1988.

TABLE 1
Application, Admission and Enrollment Trends
UC Davis Graduate Division

	Fall 1981	Fall 1988	Percent Change
Applicants			
All	2395	2892	21%
SAA[1]	100	216	116
Asian[2]	138	254	84
Non-targeted[3]	2157	2422	12
Admitted Students			
All	1547	1476	- 5%
SAA	55	107	95
Asian	80	115	44
Non-targeted	1412	1254	-11
New Enrollment[4]	*Fall 1986*		
All	*735*	788	7%
SAA	*37*	62	68
Asian	*51*	54	6
Non-targeted	*647*	672	4
Total Enrollment			
All[5]	2594	2361	- 9%
SAA	76	158	108
Asian	114	146	28
Non-targeted	2404	2057	-14

[1] In general, SAA students are underrepresented in all fields.
[2] Asians are underrepresented in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.
[3] Includes students in White, Other, and Decline-to-State categories.
[4] Data on new enrollments by ethnicity are unavailable before Fall 1986.
[5] Beginning Fall 1988, postbaccalaureate credential students are counted for enrollment purposes as undergraduate rather than graduate students. In Fall 1988, this category included 91 students: Agriculture Credential Program (9) and Teacher Education Credential Program (82). This change in enrollment counting contributes to the overall decrease in Graduate Division enrollment.

TABLE 2
Application, Admission and Enrollment Trends
UC Davis Professional Schools

	Fall 1981			Fall 1988			Percent Change
	All	Vet Med	Management	All	Vet Med	Management	All
Applicants							
All	6500	587	100	5784	407	146	-11%
SAA[1]	684			628			- 8
Asian[2]		25	5		14	14	
Admitted Students							
All	988	128	60	1079	134	88	9%
SAA	134			180			34
Asian		5	1		5	3	
New Enrollment							
All	461	128	40	424	122	51	- 8%
SAA	43			65			51
Asian		5	0		4	2	
Total Enrollment							
All	1497	523	37	1442	490	96	- 4%
SAA	127			176			39
Asian	106	15	0	137	15	8	29

[1] In general, SAA students are underrepresent in all schools.
[2] Asians are underrepresented in Management and Veterinary Medicine. Data on Asian applicants, admissions and new enrollments are not reported by all professional schools.

Professional Schools

Applications to UC Davis professional schools overall declined 11% from Fall 1981 to Fall 1988, while SAA applications declined somewhat less (8%). The number of Asian applicants increased substantially in Management but declined in Veterinary Medicine (see Table 2 above).

Despite declines in applications, the number of SAA students admitted to the professional schools increased by 34%. Admission of Asian students to Management increased but remained unchanged in Veterinary Medicine.

Although new enrollment of SAA students varies considerably from year to year, particularly for individual professional schools, their total enrollment increased steadily; since 1981, SAA enrollment rose 39%. This increase in the number of enrolled SAA students does not follow the broader trend; overall enrollment in the professional schools declined by 4%. Asian student enrollment increased in Management and remained unchanged in Veterinary Medicine.

Over the past eight years, the proportion of SAA professional school students rose from 8% to 12%. At the same time the proportion of Asian students in Management increased from zero to 8% but remained at 3% in Veterinary Medicine. The proportion of Asian students in all professional schools (including Law and Medicine) increased by 29%; they now represent 10% of total professional school enrollments.

II. Measuring Affirmative Action Progress

The UC Davis Affirmative Action Plan targets students from underrepresented groups and defines them in direct relation to "the number and proportion of these individuals receiving baccalaureate degrees from the higher education institutions in California" (p.11).

The proportion of SAA students enrolled in the UC Davis professional schools (12%) now equals the proportion in which they receive baccalaureate degrees (12%) in the state (see Table 3). SAA students are less well represented in the Graduate Division (7%), but disparity between baccalaureate degrees received and graduate enrollment has narrowed considerably.

The number and proportion of Asian students enrolled in the Graduate Division and in Management also increased. The disparity between proportions receiving baccalaureate degrees and enrolling in professional schools has been reduced but continues. Asian students receive 11% of baccalaureate degrees awarded by California public institutions but represent 6% of total enrollments in the Graduate Division, 8% of enrollments in Management and only 3% in Veterinary Medicine. Asian students represent 10% of all professional school students compared with 7% eight years ago.

TABLE 3

Comparison of Baccalaureate Degrees Awarded 1980-1981 through 1986-1987 to SAA and Asian Students by California Public Institutions with UC Davis Graduate Division and Professional School Enrollments

CALIFORNIA

Baccalaureate Degrees:	Total	SAA n	SAA percent	Asian n	Asian percent
1980-1981	57,581	6,325	11%	4,351	8%
1986-1987	65,171	8,096	12	7,410	11

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Enrollment:	Total	SAA		Asian[1]	
Graduate Division					
Fall 1981	2,594	76	3%	114	4%
Fall 1988	2,361	158	7	146	6
All Professional Schools					
Fall 1981	1,497	127	8	106	7
Fall 1988	1,442	176	12	137	10
Law					
Fall 1981	533	67	13	54	10
Fall 1988	490	57	12	42	9
Management					
Fall 1981	37	1	3	0	0
Fall 1988	96	5	5	8	8
Medicine					
Fall 1981	404	37	9	37	9
Fall 1988	366	82	22	72	20
Veterinary Medicine					
Fall 1981	523	22	4	15	3
Fall 1988	490	32	7	15	3

[1] Asian students are underrepresented only in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences within the Graduate Division; however, data are not available by discipline. They are not underrepresented in Law and Medicine.

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